A922

R 130605Z LIYCYLZSR

PM-COUP-2ND-LEAD

BY LYONEL WALSH

PARIS, SEPT 21, REUTER - JEAN BEDEL BOKASSA, SELF-PROCLAIMED MONARCH OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, WAS OUSTED IN A BLOODLESS COUP AND FRANCE RUSHED IN TROOPS TODAY TO KEEP ORDER IN ITS FORMER COLONY.

EMPEROR BOKASSA WAS OVERTHROWN DURING THE NIGHT BY HIS COUSIN AND FORMER HEAD OF STATE, DAVID DACKO.

A LOCAL JOURNALIST IN BANGUI, THE CAPITAL, TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE THAT FRENCH SOLDIERS HAD TO FIRE BLANKS IN THE AIR TO CONTROL OVERJOYED CROWDS ACCLAIMING THE NEW RULER AND DENOUNCING THE ABSENT BOKASSA.

REVELLERS CELEBRATING THE END OF THE 13-YEAR BOKASSA DICTATORSHIP LOOTED SHOPS BELONGING TO THE DEPOSED EMPEROR'S FAMILY BUT OTHERWISE THE COUP WAS PEACEFUL, THE JOURNALIST SAID.

MR DACKO TOOK OFFICE AS PRESIDENT RATHER THAN EMPEROR AND SAID IN A BROADCAST THAT BOKASSA HAD BEEN SWEPT FROM POWER BY UNIVERSAL HORROR OVER LAST APRIL'S MASSACRE OF CHILDREN BY HIS IMPERIAL GUARDS.

MORE 1959

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY MLS DATE 10/25/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH.
ENCLOSURE EXISTS
DECLASSIFIED
RELEASE DET
PA or FOI EXEMP

A928

R 130644Z LIYCSYLRYR

PM-COUP-2ND-LEAD 2 PARIS

THE TWO COMPANIES OF FRENCH TROOPS WERE SENT AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SAID.

THEY WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THAT PUBLIC SAFETY WAS ASSURED.

SOURCES IN BANGUI SAID ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT HAD RALLIED TO PRESIDENT DACKO, WHO WAS TOPPLED AS HEAD OF STATE BY BOKASSA IN 1966. THE PRESIDENT HAD INVITED THEM TO REMAIN OFFICE FOR THE TIME BEING, THE SOURCES SAID.

THE SWIFT AIRLIFT OF FRENCH TROOPS FILLED A DANGEROUS POWER VACUUM IN A COUNTRY ALREADY IN ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS AND FACING BANKRUPTCY BECAUSE OF THE CURTAILMENT OF FOREIGN AID BY FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

PRESIDENT BOKASSA WAS IN LIBYA, SEEKING FINANCIAL BACKING FROM COLONEL MUAMMAR GADDAFI, WHEN MR DACKO, FORMERLY ONE OF HIS ADVISERS, TOOK CONTROL.

THERE WERE UNCONFIRMED ... 9TH GRAF (4TH GRAF A961)

REUTER 1053